

WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

RARE SPECIES



DWARF LAKE IRIS

Iris lacustris

STATUS Listed as threatened by both Wisconsin and the federal government.

BASIC ID This early spring bloomer has an eye-catching blossom, about two inches wide. Its bluish-purple petals are marked with yellow crests. Its sword-shaped leaves grow up to six inches long and are arranged in fans.

LIFE HISTORY Thrives in thin, moist, sandy or rocky soils in sun-dappled openings under white cedar and birch. It grows in colonies and spreads primarily by horizontal stems.

RANGE In Wisconsin, it grows near the northern shores of Lake Michigan in Brown and Door counties.

WILD! “Lacustris” means “of lakes,” reflecting where this plant grows.

If you think you have this plant on your property, contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources at 608-266-7012.

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/factsheets

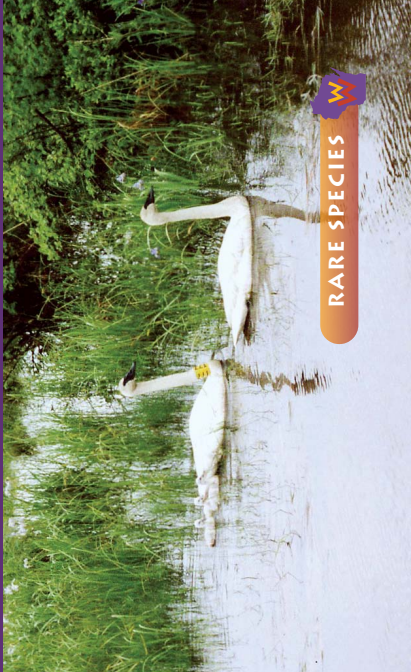
Photo: Martha Makhholm
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RARE SPECIES



TRUMPETER SWAN

Cygnus buccinator

STATUS Endangered

BASIC ID This swan, largest of our native waterfowl, stands four feet tall with a wingspan of seven feet. Adults are pure white with black bills. Cygnets (young swans) are gray with pinkish bills. Listen for a deep and trumpet-like call.

BREEDING HABITAT & HABITS

Trumpeter swans breed in large, shallow wetlands. They feed on arrowhead, bur-reed, bulrush, sedges, wild rice, pondweeds and other wetland plants. Cygnets hatch in late May or early June. Identification collars help biologists track swan movements and survival. If you see a collared swan, report the letter and number on the collar to your local DNR office.

CONSERVATION It is critical that we protect large wetland systems and remind waterfowl hunters of the differences between swans and geese.

WILD! Trumpeter swan nests may be six feet or more in diameter. Their eggs measure 4½ inches by 3 inches!

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er

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Photo: Mary Brazeau Brown

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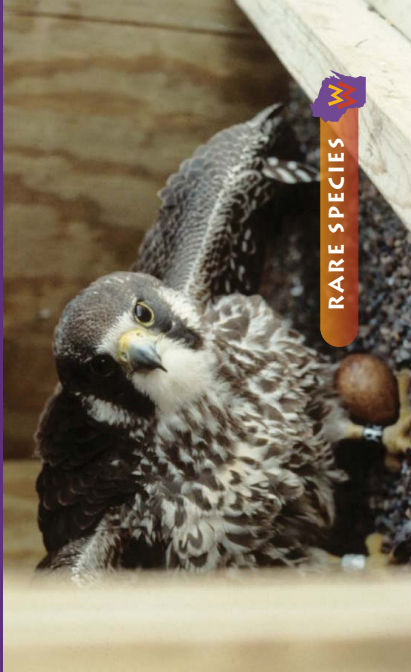
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RARE SPECIES

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PEREGRINE FALCON

Falco peregrinus

STATUS Endangered

BASIC ID This sleek, crow-sized falcon has pointed wings, a sharply-curved bill, a black “helmet” and is swift in flight.

BREEDING HABITAT & HABITS

Naturally, peregrines nest on high cliff habitat. State recovery programs have provided nest boxes (like the one in the photo) on man-made “cliffs” – tall buildings and utility plants. Peregrines eat birds such as starlings, pigeons and ducks.

CONSERVATION In the 1960s and 1970s, DDT contamination threatened the peregrine population. Captive-bred peregrines were released for nine years until 1992. Wisconsin’s goal of 20 nesting pairs was reached in 2004. Help maintain this rare species by supporting the Endangered Resources Fund.

WILD! Peregrines fly faster than any other bird. They use their feet to strike prey in mid-air at speeds up to 200 mph.

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er

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Photo: Charlene M. Gieck

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